of distance. In the presence of enterprising merchants, particularly the Ning or Ilisarat traders who will be discussed below, a cultivator in some outlying village need not undertake the arduous journey across broken country to Ruwenzori to retail his products and to purchase the materials required by his home. 443

The agricultural village can enjoy a certain amount of self-sufficiency insofar as its food supply is concerned, although the specialization in tobacco has transformed this to some extent, but there are a number of other requirements which only the merchant can satisfy, many of them "necessary luxuries" without which life is hardly bearable. For reasons which can only be speculated upon, the Kurdish villager is today far from being the master of his environment, and there are undoubtedly present a number of mineral, vegetable, and animal products which could be utilised to good advantage. He is no innovator and his knowledge of what we call woodcraft, the ingenious exploitation of the environment at a primitive level, is practically nothing. Once a young Ning exhibited as a trophy an iber skin, dried hard and stiff, which, if properly tanned, would have made an excellent rug or covering. An inquiry, and later investigation, revealed that only a few villagers knew the techniques of preparing skins; almost all of the leather which is locally produced and put into use is what is commonly called rawhide. The villager thus requires a great complex of things, of which only a few are cigarette papers, cloth, cooking utensils, iron or steel 483 [74] 281 432

the first World War, but they have been more in the sub- 177
stitution of the materials used and in the addition of
new items rather than anything radical. Most of these are
European, such as kerosene stoves and shoes, and have
either displaced older manufactures, some of which sup-
ply, or have been readily accepted as new devices. The [74]
Hutu, in an innovator, but welcomes new things of a
material sort, particularly if they appeal to him as
ingenious, as the cigarette-lighter, and are integrated
without difficulty into his daily life. It cannot be [49]
maintained that the increase of European imports has
destroyed the self-sufficiency of the household or of the [33]
district, although it has certainly furthered the deteriora-
tion of native crafts, for this area has utilized trade
from other localies for centuries. In general, it might be
said that the last fifty years have seen the introduction
of many new means to the same ends. An imported kerosene
stove and cooking utensils are now used to prepare food,
but the diet and the etiquette of dining have changed little.
The sewing machine and fabrics from the mills of Great
Britain now provide clothing, but the costume, save for
European shoes, is much the same. A drastic reorientation
has not been necessitated by the introduction of these
new appearances, and household life in Rowanda can be
said to have evolved, and to still be evolving, into
something which daily makes increased use of the devices
and products of European civilization with great stability.